

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph 0038 with the following amended paragraph:

[0038] This example is ~~is~~ another illustration of the use of poly(ethylene oxide)s as the gel additive in accordance with the present invention, this time using molecular weights of 511,000, 600,000, 1,000,000, ~~1,000,000~~, 5,000,000, and 8,000,000.

Please replace paragraph 0040 with the following amended paragraph:

[0040] A comparison between the fresh gels without PEO and the fresh gels with PEO at the various molecular weights revealed that the sharpest and straightest protein bands were in the gels containing the PEO of 600,000 molecular weight, with the sharpness of the bands decreasing and waviness appearing as the poly(ethylene oxide) molecular weight increased above 600,000, the waviness becoming greater ~~and increasing~~ with increasing molecular weight. Comparisons among the 7-day gels revealed a similar optimum at 600,000 molecular weight. The 7-day gels with this PEO had shorter and lighter trailing regions than those with no PEO, but the trailing regions darkened as the poly(ethylene oxide) molecular weight increased. With poly(ethylene oxide)s of increasing molecular weights, the ~~then~~ resulting bands had an increasing waviness in appearance, possibly due to the increasing viscosity of the monomer solutions. This increasing viscosity may have interfered with the mixing of the monomer and buffer solutions (A and C or B and C).